

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for validating an address for printing on a value bearing item (VBI), comprising:

accessing a companion file of pre-validated addresses;

comparing the address to the pre-validated addresses in the companion file for validating the address;

printing the address on the VBI, if the address is validated based on the companion file of pre-validated addresses;

storing a plurality of pre-approved addresses in a database;

if the address is not validated based on the companion file of pre-validated addresses, receiving the address from a terminal remote from the database;

comparing the address received from the remote terminal to the pre-approved addresses for validating the address;

printing the address on the VBI, if the address is validated based on the database of pre-approved addresses; and

storing information relating to the validated address, in the companion file, upon a validation of the address based on the database of pre-approved addresses.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein receiving the address comprises importing the address from a database of addresses.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the address from the database of addresses is saved as comma-separated value (CSV) data, and further including:

determining selected characteristics of the database of addresses; and
processing the CSV address data based on the characteristics of the database of addresses.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, further including:
receiving a second address from the source;
comparing selected information from the second address with stored information in the companion file;
approving the address for use if the selected information corresponds with the stored information in the companion file; and
accessing the database of valid addresses if no match is found.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein comparing the second address with the stored addresses in the companion file comprises determining whether a stored address in the companion file is stale, and rejecting the stored address if it is stale.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein accessing the database comprises accessing a remote database over a communication network.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the database is maintained by a remote address matching server.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for matching an address with a database of pre-approved addresses for printing on a value bearing item (VBI), the method comprising:
storing a plurality of pre-approved addresses with a predetermined format in the database;
receiving address data with different formats;
mapping the received address data with the different formats into the predetermined format;
comparing the received address data in the predetermined format to the pre-approved addresses in the database for validating the address;

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displaying the results for selection by a user, if one or more matches are found;
selecting an address from the results; and
printing the selected address on the VBI.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein comparing data in the predetermined format with valid addresses in the database comprises accessing a remote database of addresses over a communication network.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the database is maintained by a remote address matching server.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein ~~manipulating the~~ mapping comprises applying a plurality of query permuters to the address data to convert the data into respective formats.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein applying a plurality of query permuters comprises applying at least one of a direct permuter and a single line permuter to the address data.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein applying further comprises applying a truncate permuter to the output structure of the direct permuter.

24.-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) A method for validating an address for printing on a value bearing item (VBI), the method comprising:

storing a plurality of pre-approved addresses in a database;

receiving the address from a user using a terminal remote from the database over a wide area network;

accessing the database from a server that is communicating with the terminal over the wide area network;

comparing the address received from the remote terminal to the database of pre-approved addresses;

transmitting the comparison results to the remote terminal;

displaying the results on the remote terminal;

selecting a validated address from the displayed results; and

printing the selected validated address on the VBI.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, further comprising storing information relating to the validated address in ~~the~~ a companion file upon a validation of the address.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein receiving the address comprises importing the address from a database of addresses.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[49]]~~ 50, further comprising:

receiving a second address from the user;

comparing selected information from the second address with stored information in the companion file;

approving the address for use if the selected information corresponds with the stored information in the companion file; and

accessing the database of ~~valid addresses~~ if no match is found.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein comparing the second address with the stored addresses in the companion file comprises determining whether a stored address in the companion file is stale, and rejecting the stored address if it is stale.